

**Public Policy Committee**  
Montgomery County Commission on Aging

Notes of the meeting  
June 20, 2011

Attendees: Bob Tiller, Jack Sprague, John Honig, Rudy Oswald, Chuck Kauffman, Elaine Binder, Odile Saddi, and two visitors from China

**1. Review of public policy achievements this year**

Bob Tiller gave a brief review of the commission's significant accomplishments this year:

(a) In the state legislature: We worked on five bills, three of which passed – Communities for a Lifetime, MOLST, and exempting senior centers from providing personal information about users. All three of these were initiated by our commission. Two of the bills we worked on did not pass, but we expect that they will be introduced again next year – financial crimes seizure and permanent absentee ballot. We agreed that we want to ask Robert Hill to clarify his position on the financial crimes seizure bill before we work further on it. A question was raised about whether our commission members really understand the contents and purpose of the MOLST legislation; Elaine Binder will work with the Health and Wellness Committee on an educational effort.

(b) In the County Council: We visited all nine council members this spring, and asked them to do two things, both of which they did – restore \$100,000 in the budget for Home Care Services, and maintain the budget for essential safety net services without harm.

**2. Federal issues**

Bob asked the committee members what federal issues they want to work on in the coming months, and suggested several possibilities. After a long discussion about multiple issues, it was agreed that we will focus our federal efforts on the impact (or potential impact) on this County and its residents of federal budget cuts. Rudy and Bob will be a subcommittee to work on this. Odile will seek information about what the county is doing regarding federal legislation, and will seek data to support our efforts. Rudy and Bob may call a special meeting of the committee if they deem it appropriate. In addition, John will look into issues related to reauthorization of the Older Americans Act, which is supposed to occur this year, pending congressional action.

**3. Breakfasts with elected officials**

The committee decided that it would be valuable for the commission to hold two breakfasts this fall, one with state legislators and one with County Council members, probably both after Thanksgiving. We do not think that two breakfasts will be difficult for commission members to manage.

(a) We will aim for November 30 or December 1 for state legislators. Jack Sprague will check the date with several sources to be sure that we do not set our event in competition with another breakfast. He will also try to reserve the big room at Holiday Park Senior Center.

(b) We will aim for sometime the week of December 12 for County Council. Odile will check on the dates and will try to reserve a room in the council building.

**4. Next meeting**

The next regular meeting of this committee will be on September 8, 2011.